

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0422

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: A NAVY FOR KUWAIT

REF: A. KUWAIT 4197 DTG 300433Z SEP 74

B. KUWAIT 5112 DTG 301132Z NOV 74

C. STATE 277997 DTG 191920Z DEC 74

D. KUWAIT 5484 DTG 291007Z DEC 74

E. USCINCEUR 00454 DTG 101652Z JAN 75

1. REFTELS HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THE GOK'S COMMITMENT TO FORM A NAVY AND MY RECOMMENDATION THAT THE USG MAKE A POSITIVE EFFORT TO ASSIST.

2. THE GOK HAS NOW RELEASED AN QUOTE INVITATION FOR CONSULTANTS FOR A NAVAL BASE UNQUOTE. THIS 14 PAGE DOCUMENT REQUESTS CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE BUILDING OF A NAVAL BASE ON THE ARABIAN GULF AND A HOVERCRAFT BASE ON FAILAKA ISLAND. THE BASE WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR THE PLANNED NAVY AND EXISTING COAST GUARD. INCLUDED WILL BE:

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A. NAVAL HEADQUARTERS

- B. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS
- C. A HARBOR FOR THE FLEET AND COAST GUARD
- D. MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FACILITIES FOR THE FLEET AND COAST GUARD
- E. LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR THE FLEET AND COAST GUARD
- F. NAVAL TRAINING SCHOOL
- G. ACCOMMODATION FOR NAVAL PERSONNEL

REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH ITEM ARE STATED AT LENGTH.
THE DOCUMENT IS THOROUGH, WELL WRITTEN AND
REPRESENTS AN EXCELLENT PIECE OF STAFF WORK ON THE PART
OF THEIR BRITISH NAVAL ADVISOR.

3. ADDITIONALLY, THE INVITATION HAS THE FOLLOWING
PARAGRAPH: QUOTE IN SUBMITTING YOUR OFFER YOU SHOULD
STATE HOW MUCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE YOU MAY
EXPECT TO RECEIVE FROM YOUR OWN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (MOD)
WITH REGARDS TO SPECIFIC DETAILED REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET
BY CERTAIN SPECIALIST MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. UNQUOTE.

4. IT APPEARS TO US LOCALLY THAT THE GOK WILL SPEND
ABOUT DOLLARS 500 MILLION ON ITS NAVY.

5. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: CLEARLY THE GOK IS MOVING
FORWARD WITH NAVAL PLANS, AND CONSIDERING SIZE OF PROJECT
WE WOULD ANTICIPATE KEEN INTEREST AMONG INTERNATIONAL
FIRMS. AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS THE DEGREE
TO WHICH WE SHOULD TREAT THE MATTER AS A MAJOR TRADE
OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN FIRMS. FYI ONE WELL-PLACED
LOCAL GROUP IS IN SAN FRANCISCO NOW FOR TALKS WITH
BECHTEL, AND STEVE BECHTEL, SR. MAY WISH TO DISCUSS THE
MATTER WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS HERE DURING HIS VISIT TO
KUWAIT IN FEBRUARY. END FYI. I SHALL TRY TO GAIN MORE
INFORMATION FROM SHAIKH SA'AD WHEN I SEE HIM LATER THIS
WEEK. MEANWHILE, I SUGGEST STATE AND DOD, IN CONSULTATION
WITH COMMERCE, SHOULD REVIEW HOW THE EMBASSY SHOULD HANDLE
NAVAL DEVELOPMENTS HERE. AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, IT IS
MY VIEW THAT THE USG SHOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO GOK
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING ITS NAVY. I WOULD
NOT WANT TO URGE US COMPANIES TO BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED
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ONLY TO HAVE TO TELL THEM IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE THAT
RULES HAVE BEEN CHANGED AND KUWAIT NAVAL MATTERS ARE BEING
HANDLED ON A STRICTLY GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT
BASIS.
STOLTZFUS

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